

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS:

PARITY, PLATFORMS, AND PROTECTION: THE FUTURE OF THE MUSIC INDUSTRY IN THE DIGITAL RADIO REVOLUTION

U.S. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary. Full Committee. April 26, 2006.

<http://judiciary.senate.gov/hearing.cfm?id=1853>

“We should be supporting and promoting the artists who write and perform the music that enriches all of our lives, and we should be helping everyone else to hear and enjoy that music. The copyright laws exist, in this arena, to define how creators can control, and profit from, the use of their works. All of the technological advances of recent years, all of the improvements in quality and quantity of music that the digital age has brought us, should mean that more people can hear more music, more easily, and that everyone gets paid their due.”

NETWORK NEUTRALITY: COMPETITION, INNOVATION AND NONDISCRIMINATORY ACCESS

U.S. House of Representatives. Committee on the Judiciary. Task Force on Telecom and Antitrust. April 25, 2006.

<http://judiciary.house.gov/Oversight.aspx?ID=233>

“The House Committee on the Judiciary and the antitrust laws have played a critical role in fostering competition in the telecommunications industry. While the technological dynamics of the telecom industry have shifted, the use of market power to deter competition and undermine consumer choice has not. The continued success of the Internet depends upon unfettered interconnection and the ability of consumers to connect and access online information, content, goods and services in a nondiscriminatory manner. If consumers are going to continually migrate to the Internet and businesses are going to prosper because of the internet, the House Committee on the Judiciary must be at the center of the debate defending competition.”

CAN SMALL HEALTHCARE GROUPS FEASIBLY ADOPT ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS TECHNOLOGY?

U.S. House of Representatives. Committee on Small Business. Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Oversight. April 6, 2006.

<http://wwwc.house.gov/smbiz/hearings/databaseDrivenHearingsSystem/hearingPage.asp?hearingIdDateFormat=060406>

“Today this Subcommittee will focus on the economic benefits derived through the adoption of technological processes. Is the adoption of electronic medical records feasible for small businesses, specifically small doctors’ practices? We also hope to determine the challenges these small groups face in adopting such technology. There is little doubt that the adoption of electronic medical records can play an important role in increasing efficiency, reducing paperwork and redundancy and more importantly, reducing medical errors.”

MARKUP RECORDS:

HOUSE COMMERCE MOVES TELECOM BILL (DRAFT)

David Hatch. CongressDaily. National Journal Group Inc. April 27, 2006.

http://nationaljournal.com/members/markups/2006/04/mr_20060426_5.htm

“The House Energy and Commerce Committee on Wednesday approved major telecommunications legislation considered favorable to the Bells after rejecting two key Democratic amendments that would have increased regulations on the companies.”

PANEL TACKLES BILL TO ALLOW NATIONAL CABLE FRANCHISES (DRAFT)

Juliana Gruenwald and Drew Clark. TechnologyDaily. National Journal Group Inc. April 5, 2006.

http://nationaljournal.com/members/markups/2006/04/mr_20060405_7.htm

“A House Energy and Commerce Committee panel Wednesday approved legislation that would allow the Bell companies and others to obtain national franchises to offer video services while rejecting efforts to impose strict “network neutrality” rules and other requirements sought by Democrats.”

KEY PANEL DEMOCRATS DECLARE SUPPORT FOR BARTON'S MEASURE (DRAFT)

Drew Clark. TechnologyDaily. National Journal Group Inc. April 4, 2006.

http://nationaljournal.com/members/markups/2006/04/mr_20060404_2.htm

“Telecommunications legislation designed to expedite Bell companies' ability to enter the video marketplace gained ground Tuesday as some House Energy and Commerce Committee Democrats declared their support for the Republican-led bill.”

RESEARCH CENTER REPORTS:

INTERNET PENETRATION AND IMPACT

Data Memo. The Pew Internet & American Life Project. April 26, 2006. 5 pages.

http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Internet_Impact.pdf

“Over time, Internet users have become more likely to note big improvements in their ability to shop and the way they pursue their hobbies and interests. A majority of Internet users also consistently report that the Internet helps them to do their job and improves the way they get information about health care. While the share of Internet users who report positive impacts has grown, the sheer size of the Internet population also continues to increase. Surveys fielded in 2006 show that Internet penetration among adults in the U.S. has hit an all-time high.”

THE INTERNET'S GROWING ROLE IN LIFE'S MAJOR MOMENTS

Report. The Pew Internet & American Life Project. April 19, 2006. 11 pages.

http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Major%20Moments_2006.pdf

“The Internet has become increasingly important to users in their everyday lives. The proportion of Americans online on a typical day grew from 36% of the entire adult population in January 2002 to 44% in December 2005. The number of adults who said they logged on at least once a day from home rose from 27% of American adults in January 2002 to 35% in late 2005. And for many of those users, the

Internet has become a crucial source of information. This report shows that fully 45% of Internet users, or about 60 million Americans, say that the Internet helped them make big decisions or negotiate their way through major episodes in their lives in the previous two years.”

ARE “WIRED SENIORS” SITTING DUCKS?

Data Memo. The Pew Internet & American Life Project. April 11, 2006. 3 pages.

http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Wired_Senior_2006_Memo.pdf

“Currently, the vast majority of Americans age 65 and older do not go online. But that will likely change in a big way as the "silver tsunami" of internet-loving Baby Boomers swamps the off-line senior population in the next 10 years. That demographic shift, paired with a rising tide of viruses, spyware, and other online critters, is cause for concern since there is evidence that older users are less likely than younger ones to take precautions against software intrusions and fraud.”

CELL PHONE USE

Data Memo. The Pew Internet & American Life Project. April 3, 2006. 13 pages.

http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Cell_phone_study.pdf

“The cell phone has become an integral and, for some, essential communications tool that has helped owners gain help in emergencies. Fully 74% of the Americans who own mobile phones say they have used their hand-held device in an emergency and gained valuable help. Another striking impact of mobile technology is that Americans are using their cell phones to shift the way they spend their time. But many also report driving unsafely while on their cells and they say they don’t like the new intrusions and public annoyances cell phones bring to their lives – not to mention their monthly bills.”

THE LAW AND ECONOMICS OF SOFTWARE SECURITY

Robert W. Hahn and Anne Layne-Farrar. AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies. Working Paper 06-08. April 2006. 65 pages.

<http://www.aei-brookings.org/admin/authorpdfs/page.php?id=1266>

“Security in software networks relies on technology, law, and economics. As the cost of software security breaches becomes more apparent, there has been greater interest in developing and implementing solutions for different parts of the problem. In this paper, we provide the first comprehensive assessment of the software security issue that uses a law and economics framework. We begin by offering a definition of software security that illustrates the complexity of the problem. We then review and critique the literature assessing the costs of software security. Finally, we evaluate a number of legal, economic and technical approaches for addressing security problems.”

THINK TANK OPINION AND ANALYSIS:

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS: TELECOM REFORM IN THE HOUSE

James Gattuso. The Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #1026. April 3, 2006.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Regulation/wm1026.cfm>

“After several false starts, telecommunications reform is once again moving in Congress. As soon as this week, the House Commerce Committee will vote on a proposal released last Monday by committee chair Joe Barton (R-TX) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL). The bill would allow cable-television operators to be franchised at the national level, increasing competition in cable-television market. Unfortunately, the bill would also provide the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with the

authority to enforce so-called “network neutrality” rules on Internet providers. While more limited than what some have proposed, this would be a dangerous step towards complete federal regulation of the Internet. Policymakers should reject this approach.”

THE ECONOMICS OF NET NEUTRALITY

Robert W. Hahn and Scott Wallsten. AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies. Related Publication 06-13. April 2006.

<http://www.aei-brookings.org/admin/authorpdfs/page.php?id=1269>

“This essay examines the economics of “net neutrality” and broadband Internet access. The authors argue that mandating net neutrality would be likely to reduce economic welfare. Instead, the government should focus on creating competition in the broadband market by liberalizing more spectrum and reducing entry barriers created by certain local regulations. In cases where a broadband provider can exercise market power the government should use its antitrust enforcement authority to police anticompetitive behavior.”

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND INNOVATION IN THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES

James V. DeLong. The Progress & Freedom Foundation. Progress Snapshot 2.11. April 2006. 3 pages.

<http://www.pff.org/issues-pubs/ps/2006/ps2.11delongjapan.pdf>

“Those who regard the destruction of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) as the key to promoting interoperability and cooperation among firms have the situation exactly backward. To the contrary, the road to effective cooperation and interoperability is through IPR.”